



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/3451
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

Handwritten radio script regarding 'grandiose announcements of proposed public works',
railways, dams and the Frome by-election.

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/3451

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

23/1/61.

Good evening

RECORDED

It was perhaps no surprise to most experienced observers to find last Thursday that the Premier was at it again.

In most States responsible public officers, & particularly the Premier, do not make grandiose announcements of proposed public works unless those ~~proposals~~ ^{proposals} have been duly investigated, approved, & the cost of them provided. That of course is the proper way.

But in S. A. a different course is followed. Our Premier gaily announces the vaguest of plans as if they were already ~~and~~ accomplished, & takes to himself daily credit for public works which in the passage of time prove to be mere fevered imaginings.

I have often told of the way one of these major works - the S. E. Deep Sea Port - was repeatedly announced with great fanfare & followed by Sir Thomas - as repeatedly in a different place.

Well of course the public got a little weary of that show, so another had to be found. Various plans were announced for damming the Murray - the Advertiser published a plan showing Lake Bonney as a great area for water conservation. Then the Premier suddenly announced the great plan for an enormous dam upstream from S. A.

We heard a lot about this. Every so often some new consultation was to be held for the matter. Apparently

it was going to be the major developmental work that which Sir T. Thomas would build his election campaign - as he built the last on the promise of oil development at Inuvik.

The cost of the project £13,000,000 was much publicised, & the public asked to admire the achievement of our daring chief executive.

But something intervened. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. O'Halloran, died suddenly & the Premier needed to find a new public work close to Peterborough to tickle the fancies of the electors at the by-election.

Do you remember the great announcement that hundreds of men would shortly be engaged to work for several years on the standardisation of the rail gauge from Broken Hill to Pt. Pirie. Sir Thomas said confirmation of this proposal was only a matter of weeks. Federal Cabinet would do this very shortly. In banner headlines we were told of the great assistance to State development especially to the area of Towns. This would be.

The by-election came & went. The Premier's candidate was defeated. The Government's interest in the standardisation project waned after an abortive trip to Canberra by Sir T. Thomas, & the next we heard was that that mighty ~~and~~ fighter for our rights was proposing to trade our rights in the standardisation agreement for Commonwealth support for the Murray Dam project.

That doesn't seem to have worked either.
So now we have a sudden announcement
from the Premier that Mr. Menzies
does not seem very enthusiastic about the
project, so it doesn't look as if it can be
accomplished.

However, there are still public appearances
to consider. It would be a pity to let
all the ballyhoo about the project go
entirely to waste, and it would be
foolish to expect so accomplished a
political campaign to fail in some
feat of big game hunting at this time.

Is the Premier daunted by this
situation? Not a bit of it - Two new
alternatives coming down the line within
S.A. are immediately produced like
robbers from a hat, - and looking
every bit as surprised.

One of them still involves flooding
the irrigation settlements at Cadell.
No very long-range thought can have
been given to his proposal. It is
only a short time since a new prison
fund ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~opened~~ ^{opened} at considerable cost
to the State was opened at Cadell.

The gay announcement that Cadell
~~might~~ might be flooded, and that it
would appear that alterations would have
to be made to the bridge at Beaumont
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~interruptions~~ ^{interruptions} ~~delays~~ ^{delays} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~the~~ ^{the}

be put

~~It is~~ in the preparation of that project
which it has already suffered, must
cause consternation to all the people
who will be directly affected. But
really, you know, I don't think they need

very very much yet a while. This hasty
ill. proposed announcement, made on
such an obviously flimsy basis, seems
to be of a pattern with so many other
announcements of projects which are
never carried out in this State, that they
should enable to conclude fairly reliably
that this is just another of those pipe-
dreams with which the Premier seeks to
create the impression that he is getting
great things done, while S.A.'s, very
industrial development remains the worst
in Australia, as it has done for the
last 10 years.

Goodnight.